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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1809

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 0042

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E.O. 12065: RDS-1 1/4/00 (DION, MARK)
TAGS: PINS PINT CASC ES
SUBJECT: MURDER OF AIFLD OFFICIALS AND ISTA DIRECTOR VIERA

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1137 P.M. JANUARY 3 TWO TALL MEN IN TAN JACKETS AND BLUE TROUSERS, ACCORDING TO ONE EYEWITNESS, ENTERED THE SHERATON HOTEL IN THE ESCALON NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN SALVADOR AND PROCEEDED THROUGH THE LOBBY TO THE NEW MAIN DINING ROOM, WHERE TWO OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) WERE FINISHING DINNER WITH THE SALVADORAN DIRECTOR OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM INSTITUTE (ISTA). NO ONE ELSE WAS IN THE DINING ROOM. THE TWO BEGAN FIRING TWO PISTOLS, KILLING INSTANTLY THE ISTA DIRECTOR, RODOLFO VIERA AND AIFLD OFFICIAL MICHAEL P. HAMMER, A U.S. CITIZEN. A SECOND U.S. CITIZEN, ON CONTRACT TO AIFLD, MARK PEARLMAN, WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED AND DIED EN ROUTE TO THE HOSPITAL. THE ASSAILANTS FLED.

3. LATT COL. BRIAN BOSCH, WHO LIVES AT THE HOTEL, WAS SUMMONED BY THE HOTEL MANAGER, PETER DUMAS. COL. BOSCH ADVISED THE MARINE GUARD WHO CALLED THE DUTY OFFICER, ACTING CONSUL, RSO AND CHARGE. ALL FOUR ARRIVED WITHIN ONE HALF HOUR AND IDENTIFIED THE BODIES OF PEARLMAN AND HAMMER. CHARGE PHONED OPS CENTER TO ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND CALLED RICHARD DULANEY, DIRECTOR OF AIFLD SAN SALVADOR, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP AND

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DATE 8 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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THEREFORE WAS UNAWARE OF THE DINNER. DULAHAN INFORMED AIFLD OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND CAME TO THE SHERATON TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THE BODIES, MAKING INVENTORY AND TAKING POSSESSION OF THE OFFICIAL AIFLD ARMORED VEHICLE IN THE SHERATON PARKING LOT.

4. CHARGE REQUESTED THAT COL. BOSCH TELEPHONE DEFENSE MINISTER COL. GUILLERMO GARCIA AT HOME TO REPORT THIS GRAVE INCIDENT AND TO REQUEST FULL COOPERATION OF THE POLICE IN ITS INVESTIGATION. SEVERAL DETECTIVES HAD ALREADY ARRIVED BUT COL. GARCIA ORDERED A LARGE PLICE CONTINGENT TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

CHARGE ATTEMPTED TO CALL AMB. WHITE IN THE U.S. BUT HOTEL SWITCHBOARD WAS CLOSED. HE REQUESTED DESK OFFICER MICHAEL BARRY TO ADVISE DAS CREEK AND AMB. WHITE AT 7 A.M. TOMORROW.

5. AT EMBASSY, CHARGE TOOK A PHONE CALL FROM AIFLD DIRECTOR WILLIAM DAUGHERTY WHO WILL ADVISE MR. HAMMER'S FAMILY AND ATTEMPT TO REACH MR. PEARLMAN'S COLLEAGUE AND EMPLOYER, PROF. ROY PROSTERMAN IN SEATTLE. OPS CENTER IS ALSO TRYING TO REACH PROSTERMAN. MR. DAUGHERTY EMPHASIZED THE TERRIBLE IMPACT THIS CRIME WILL HAVE ON THE SALVADORAN PEASANT MOVEMENT (MR. VIERA WAS ALSO DIRECTOR OF THE SALVADORAN PEASANT UNION - UCS), ON EL SALVADOR'S AGRARIAN REFORM AND ON AFL-CIO SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR. HE NOTED THAT MR. HAMMER WAS IN EL SALVADOR TO PLEDGE AIFLD'S FULL SUPPORT TO MR. VIERA WHETHER HE WAS OUSTED FROM HIS POST AS DIRECTOR OF ISTA OR NOT.

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6. ACTING CONSUL AND MR. GULAMAN ARE MAKING PRELIMINARY FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS (SEPTEL).

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